

BRITISH CAPTURE PRISONERS AS TIDE OF BIG BATTLE TURNS SLOWLY TOWARD THE ALLIES

BRITISH REPULSED ATTACKS IN VALLEY OF THE SOMME

Blocked on Lassigny and Noyon Fronts
by the French, Germans Turned
Fiercely on Montdidier Front
and Forced French Back

GERMANS BEGIN FRENCH BATTLE AGAINST ARRAS VERY FEROCIOUS

Their Big Guns Have Been
Brought Up and a Fierce
Bombardment of British
Positions There Has Been
Started, London Official
Report States

British Army Headquarters in France, March 28. (By Associated Press).—News was received to-day from the extreme wing that the allies are holding well. Near Beaumont-Hamel the enemy attacked heavily. Severe fighting followed. This morning it appeared that the village was virtually No Man's land, with the containing lines drawn close on either side.

Hard fighting occurred at several points during the night. The latest reports indicate the British have kept the situation well in hand.

London, March 28.—Prisoners and machine guns have been captured by the British, the war office announced to-day. Fighting continues fiercely on both banks of the Somme. This morning the enemy opened a heavy bombardment on the British defenses east of Arras. The attack is developing in this sector.

Repeated attacks made by the enemy along the valley of the Somme in the neighborhood of Beaumont-Hamel, Puisseux and Mycenville were repulsed.

Albert Captured By Germans.

Wednesday, British carried out numerous counter attacks on the Somme, resulting in the regaining of ground and the driving back of the Germans at various points. Field Marshal Haig's report last night declared that in these operations heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy. The report was as follows:

"During the night our troops were pressed back a short distance on both banks of the Somme and early this morning were holding the line, approximately, of Rosieres, Harbonnières, Sailly-le-Sec, Mericourt-l'Abbe, thence up to the railway embankment southwest of Albert. The enemy is in Albert.

"At one time yesterday afternoon the enemy crossed the Ancre near Mesnil, north of Albert, but was counter attacked and driven back across the river. North of this point there is no change in our position.

"This morning our troops counter attacked north of the Somme, between the angle of the Ancre and the Somme, and recaptured Morlaucourt and Chapilly. At the same time our troops immediately south of the river again advanced our line to Proyart.

"The enemy has attacked in the neighborhood of Bucquoy. A fresh guard division has been brought up with this object, but up to the present this attack has made no impression.

"A number of other heavy attacks were made to-day on our front both north and south of the Somme. The latest information is that the enemy has been repulsed with heavy loss.

"West of Roye the French have been heavily engaged and have been forced to give some ground. But reinforcements are arriving.

"The battle was renewed this morning with great violence south and north of the Somme. Intense fighting has taken place during the day from south of Rosieres to north of Abbeville (Abbeville).

"An unsuccessful attempt made by the enemy last night to drive in our line south of the Somme was followed this morning by a series of heavy attacks in the neighborhood of Rosieres and south of that place. At Rosieres all the enemy's assaults have been beaten off by our troops, who inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy.

"Further north our line was maintained through the earlier part of the day, in spite of great pressure from large hostile forces.

"Later in the day a fresh German attack developed in this area, with the result that our line was taken back a short distance to the west. Later reports show that our counter attacks have again completely restored the situation.

"During the day the enemy made a number of determined attacks against our positions between the Somme and the Ancre north and south of Albert. Fierce fighting has taken place in this sector also.

"Part of our position south of Albert, into which the enemy at one time forced his way, was regained by a counter attack, and a further heavy attack delivered by the enemy at this point dur-

Desperate Hand to Hand
Fighting Took Place West
of Montdidier, During
Which the Germans Made
an Advance, Though Suffering Severely

Paris, March 28.—Blocked on the Lassigny and Noyon fronts and the left bank of the Oise, the Germans last night threw forward important forces in the region of Montdidier, the war office announced to-day. Here the fighting rapidly took on extraordinary ferocity. The French regiments fought hand to hand with the enemy, inflicting heavy losses. Finally the French fell back to the heights immediately west of Montdidier.

The French official report given out last night told of the advance of the Germans toward Montdidier, the statement being as follows:

"The Germans, throwing into the battle fresh new troops, to-day attacked with redoubled violence our positions east of Montdidier. Our troops, with praiseworthy tenacity, checked the assaults of the enemy, who succeeded in advancing only by reason of a marked superiority in numbers.

"In the regions of Lassigny and Noyon attacks not less powerful suffered a complete check, breaking down before the heroic resistance of our regiments."

AMERICANS FOUGHT LIKE BEST VETERANS

Wounded French Captain Back from the Front Praised Action of United States Troops.

Paris, March 28.—"Entirely new in this warfare, the Americans worked like the best veterans in the battle of the Somme," says a wounded French captain who was brought back from the front, according to La Liberté.

Two wounded American officers were brought back with the French captain. Each wore the French war cross conferred on the battlefield.

BRITISH RETREATED.

German Official Report Says They Gave Ground on the Somme.

Berlin, via London, March 28.—"On both banks of the Somme our armies are engaged in a slowly progressing attack," says the German official communication issued last evening.

The British began to retreat early yesterday morning on a wide front on both sides of the Somme, the German official communication announced at midday. The German attack, it is declared, broke through the enemy's lines. To the north and south of Albert the Germans won crossings of the Ancre. Albert was captured Tuesday evening.

To the south of the Somme, after violent fighting, German forces drove the enemy back by way of Chaules and Lihons.

Roye was taken by storm and Noyon was cleared of hostile forces after bloody street fighting, the report states.

The text of the communication follows:

"The British began a retreat this morning on a wide front on both sides of the Somme. The stubborn resistance of the hostile rear guard was overcome in the sharp pursuit.

"British and French divisions which were defeated on March 25 tried again yesterday in the pathless crater fields of the Somme battle area to arrest our advance. Our attack broke through the enemy's lines.

"North and south of Albert we won a passage across the Ancre. Albert fell in the evening.

"South of the Somme, after violent fighting, we drove back the enemy by way of Chaules and Lihons. Roye was taken by storm and Noyon was cleared of the enemy after bloody street fighting.

"At many points we have crossed our old positions, held before the Somme battle of 1916, toward the west. The number of prisoners grows and the booty increases."

ing the afternoon was completely repulsed.

"Attempts made by the enemy in the course of the day to dislodge westward from the town of Albert have been driven back, in each instance with the heaviest casualties."

BRITISH ADMIT LOSS OF 600 GUNS

London, March 28.—Major-General Frederick R. Maurice, chief director of military operations at the war front, said to-day that the total British losses of guns in the present battle, either from falling into the hands of the enemy or being knocked out is about 600, according to his best judgment, compared with the German claim of 930.

He said that probably the same ratio held good regarding the German claims of prisoners. The British have lost probably about 100 tanks, which were used extensively in counter-attacks.

TO ENTER WAR WORK.

Rev. J. W. Chesbro of Bellows Falls to Go Across.

Bellows Falls, March 28.—Rev. J. W. Chesbro, pastor of the local Baptist church, expects to go to the Y. M. C. A. training school in Springfield, Mass., next Tuesday and after a month's preparation leave for France for war work. He will be at his church Sundays as long as he is in this country. Others from this town in this work are Rev. W. H. Desjardins, an ex-pastor of the Baptist church at Saxtons River, and B. E. Merriam, superintendent of schools.

MONTPELIER

City Council Votes to Raise Salaries of Officials.

The regular meeting of the city council took place Wednesday evening, the most of two hours being occupied in an argument relative to the salaries that shall be paid the heads of departments during the coming year. The finance committee had recommended a raise of 10 per cent on the salaries of all of the heads of departments excepting the street commissioner, who has been drawing more salary than other commissioners. It was finally decided last night to raise his salary like the rest of them, so that the salaries for the different departments will be: Treasurer, \$1,842; assistant clerk, \$682; overseer, \$700; fire chief, \$1,200; police chief, \$1,200; street commissioner, \$1,250; water and sewer commissioner, \$1,100; while the assistant fire chief was raised \$25 a year. The bond of the city clerk was fixed at \$20,000, one-half the sum which the city has bonded for in the past years. The property committee was authorized to make repairs on the council chamber and clerk's office. The property committee was authorized to buy a searifier at a sum not to exceed \$985, the same to be attached to the rear of the city steam roller for road work. The matter of sprinkling on the streets, this will be investigated by the street committee. It may be impossible to obtain oil this year. The report of the police committee to move the police department from the basement into the office with the water commissioner was approved. The reasons for the change being better accommodations, more suitable for the service men of one department being able to respond to calls of the other department and it being a healthy place for the men. The private office for the chief of police will be in the overseer's room.

The members of the federal district board were here Wednesday afternoon and went through the papers which were placed before them by Clerk J. G. Norton, finishing up all the business excepting some few questionnaires upon which there is pending action. The clerks are completing the work now, that the report may be made shortly to the war department. The final classification of nearly all of the registrants is nearly done. There will be a few papers arriving from time to time.

Gov. H. F. Graham has received from Miss Katherine Crozier her resignation as secretary of the state board of registration of nurses. The resignation was accepted. Miss Crozier was appointed early last fall at the request of the other members of the board. She has gone to France, where she will be associated with the corps of nurses from this country.

G. P. Pini was arrested this morning by Chief of Police Connolly on the charge of branch of the city war council riding on a sidewalk. He was caught in the act by the chief, who took him into city court and there he was found guilty and fined \$5 and costs. Each spring the police department has to arrest two or three adults and children before the ordinance relative to bicycle riding on the sidewalk will be observed.

A. A. Emery went to Burlington this morning to accompany home Miss Doris Emery, his daughter, who is very ill with a nervous trouble in the Mary Fletcher hospital. She appears to be some better than she has been.

Chief Connolly received a complaint Wednesday evening of boys stealing sap, buckets and other things of residents near Capitol hill and taking these things to a shack near the place. Some of the things were regained by the parties who went to the place. The boys included Timothy Lynch, James Dobbis, John and James Gallagher. Chief Connolly called the boys to his office during the day and will not stop in the matter until the shack crowd is broken up. The boys are kindly inclined when alone, but when together get into trouble, it is claimed.

Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Denny went to Burlington Wednesday afternoon.

Two more sets of binoculars have been presented to the navy department through the local recruiting office. They were from Mrs. May D. Smith of Montpelier and Little Bruce of Barre.

TALK OF THE TOWN

Registered Liberty loan bonds of all issues have just been received by the Granite Savings Bank & Trust company. This completes the delivery of all bonds subscribed for through this bank. These bonds are now ready for delivery to subscribers.

In U. S. court at Montpelier to-day 24 final citizenship papers were granted and at Barre last night 25 final papers were awarded. To-day Judge Howe heard the arguments in the claim of the estate of L. H. P. Rowell vs. the bankrupt estate of L. A. Lint for \$1,080.

Administrators Appointed.

In probate court to-day Dr. O. W. Daley of White River Junction settled his accounts as administrator of the estate of Orin Daley, late of Montpelier.

Mrs. Alice Grindley of Plainfield was appointed administratrix of the estate of Alice C. Hamblett, late of Plainfield.

A. L. Pierce of Barre was appointed administrator of the estate of Abbie M. Pierce, late of Northfield and Barre.

44 in Montpelier To-day and 25 in Barre Last Night.

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KANSAS CITY UNDER PATROL

Home Guardsmen Are in Charge in Downtown District

TO CHECK RIOTING IN LAUNDRY STRIKE

Outbreaks Occurred on the First Night of the Suspension

Kansas City, March 28.—The downtown districts were patrolled by home guardsmen to-day to prevent a repetition of the rioting that marked the first day and night of the general strike of union workmen in the city, in sympathy with the striking laundry workers.

ODESSA FALL TO RUSSIANS CONFIRMED

War Office at Petrograd Says It Was Accomplished After Bombardment By Fleet and Three Days' Battle.

Petrograd, Wednesday, March 27. (By Associated Press).—Official dispatches published here confirm the report that Odessa has been recaptured by the Bolsheviks. Odessa was first bombarded by cruisers which came from Sebastopol. There was desperate fighting for three days in the vicinity of Sebastopol between the Bolsheviks and Austro-German detachments.

The latest war bulletin reports the Austro-Germans within 40 miles of Yankatersin, a commercial and industrial town 20 miles northeast of Odessa.

FOUND REAL SHOWER BATH.

Private Mario Bianchi Writes His Aunt from France.

Private Mario Bianchi writes from France to his aunt, Mrs. Beatrice Franz, that he is well and enjoying himself under the conditions. He says:

"I received your package of Barre Times and was very glad to get them. After I got through reading them I passed them along to the other fellows to read. Thank Emilio for the Current Events that he sent with your package."

"What do you think I run across? You would never guess. It was a real warm shower bath. It was the first real bath that I've had since the good old U. S. A."

"We have been having fine weather. To-day I found some flowers growing in a field. I guess that is a sure sign of summer. You should see the path in the hills where we sleep. Gee, they are as big as cats and they bark like a dog and at night while you are asleep, you can feel them when they run over your body. But I am getting so I don't mind them now."

BIG LOAN TO RAILROAD.

United States Advances \$43,964,000 to New Haven System.

Washington, D. C., March 28.—As the first big expenditure from the \$500,000,000 railroad administration revolving fund, the railroad administration has just agreed to loan the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad company \$43,964,000 for one year at 6 per cent interest to meet the notes of that amount maturing April 15.

The company was granted the right of renewal for one more year on the same terms. The railroad administration will take as collateral for the advance a quantity of securities now pledged on the maturing notes, with the right to sell them at any time and apply the proceeds on the retirement of the notes.

ONLY SEVEN "DESSERTERS."

Caledonia County Board Considers Record a Good One.

St. Johnsbury, March 28.—The local board has received the questionnaire from all but seven of the 1914 registrants in Caledonia county and thinks that this record can hardly be excelled by any other county board in the state. The 11 conscripts in the draft for 98,000 soldiers have all been notified to appear at the office of the local board Monday afternoon and they will leave Tuesday morning for Camp Devens. From Wells River the boys will have a special car to Ayer, which will contain the young men from the four counties, of Orleans, Caledonia, Essex and Washington.

FINAL PAPERS GRANTED.

34 in Montpelier To-day and 25 in Barre Last Night.

In U. S. court at Montpelier to-day 24 final citizenship papers were granted and at Barre last night 25 final papers were awarded. To-day Judge Howe heard the arguments in the claim of the estate of L. H. P. Rowell vs. the bankrupt estate of L. A. Lint for \$1,080.

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EXPECT ALLIES TO STRIKE SOON

American Staff Officers at Washington Look for Important Move

THINK IT WILL COME TO-DAY OR TO-MORROW

Developments of Much Consequence Are Anticipated

Washington, D. C., March 28.—American staff officers who have been studying the war maps and the latest dispatches are of the opinion that developments of moment in the allied counter-attack will begin to show themselves on the battle field to-day or to-morrow.

CASE SUDDENLY ENDED

When It Was Found That the Declaration Was Faulty.

The cases of Ella and Robert Darling of Woodbury against the town of Richmond, the latter of which was commenced in Washington county court, came to a sudden end Wednesday afternoon, when the cases were dismissed by order of the court, following a motion by V. A. Bullard for the defense, asking for such action; and there is no redress left for the plaintiffs in the two cases.

The action occurred because of defective notice to the defendants. It appears that it was set up in the declaration relative to the accident, in which the plaintiffs were injured, that the accident took place on a drybridge in Richmond. There are two drybridges within a short distance of each other, and it was not made plain which of these it was, so that after the jury had been drawn on Wednesday afternoon and while Max L. Powell was reading the notice to the jury as a part of the evidence, a motion was filed by the defendant's attorney that the notice be defective. Explanations took place, which resulted in the case being dismissed. The time having elapsed, a new declaration cannot be made for recovery of damages by the plaintiffs, it was stated Wednesday afternoon.

The case going off the docket caused the clerk to get busy to find a case for the jury to work upon during the rest of the week. Cases have been settled or gone off the docket so fast this term that the clerk has spent considerable time in getting them ready for trial, and almost any of the few remaining cases may be brought forward at any time.

This morning the jury was drawn in the case of J. J. Williams vs. E. E. Davis and wife, general assumpsit, in which the plaintiff wants to recover for a dog which he did on an automobile for the defendants. A part of the bill was admitted this morning and a check for payment of the same was in open court before the jury was drawn. The jury drawn in the case are Charles Louzell of Duxbury, Earl Fuller, Warren, L. J. Celly, Cabot, D. P. Sawyer, Middlesex; C. F. Fox, Northfield; D. A. Smith, Cabot; L. E. Town, Plainfield; Harvey Averill, Barre City; A. L. Reed, Middlesex; A. K. French, Northfield; W. H. Cate, East Montpelier; F. W. Powers, Waterville.

The plaintiff was on the stand during the morning. He told of the effort he has made to collect the bill, which amounted to a little over \$200, without avail. His correspondence was read to the jury to substantiate his testimony. Mrs. Gertrude Davis was on the stand a short time before noon. She told of arrangements for the work to be done and that when she did so she told Mr. Williams she did not know when she could pay for the repair and claimed the amount charged was more than agreed upon.

It seems as if the union merchants were more patriotic for the general good of Barre. This agreement of the clerks was endorsed by the granite cutters' union and also by the Central Labor union of Barre. The clerks' organization was willing to waive all rights to settle this long-standing dispute.

I am sorry to see there are not more progressive merchants in the city of Barre, that realize what this settlement means to them as well as their clerks.

The clerks' organization will still exist, and is not going to allow two grocery merchants to put them out of existence. We will still ask the union men and their friends to patronize us, but the union stores and we will see that they do it.

I think I have made the situation clear and hope this note will endeavor to bring some of the merchants to have a better feeling and not be misled or talked to wrong by some of their members.

Thanking you for this space, I remain, yours respectfully, R. K. Marshall.

Organizer Retail Clerks, Hotel Barre.

FUNERAL OF HAROLD ISACKSON.

Held from Father's Home on Pleasant Street Wednesday Afternoon.

The funeral of Harold Isackson, son of John Isackson of Pleasant street, who died Tuesday, was held from his late home yesterday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Rev. J. B. Reardon officiating. There was a large attendance of friends and neighbors and a profusion of flowers. Interment was in the family lot in Hope cemetery.

Arthur Blackmore, James Mortimer, Conrad Seiberg and William Diack acted as bearers.

The flowers and those who gave them were as follows: Pillow, parents, wreath, Miss Selma Johnson; spray, Capital Granite company, Montpelier; carnations, Mr. and Mrs. Seiberg; Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Phelps, Mr. and Mrs. James Stephens, Arthur Blackmore, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson; call lilies, Miss McCarthy, Miss Melvin, Miss Milne, Miss Garby, Miss Muir, Miss Blackmore, Miss Shell, Miss McMillan, Miss Baigrie, Miss Foster, Miss Patterson, Mrs. Diack, Mrs. Bassett, Miss Crawford, Miss Kiddell, Mrs. Andrews.

Notice.

All read from my mill after April 1st.

W. E. Bagley.

St. Johnsbury, March 28.—Rev. A. V. Fisher, for the past four years pastor of the Congregational church at St. Johnsbury, has resigned his pastorate and will sever his official relations with the church on May 1.

PASTOR TO END SERVICE.

Rev. A. V. Fisher of St. Johnsbury East Resigns.

St. Johnsbury, March 28.—Rev. A. V. Fisher, for the past four years pastor of the Congregational church at St. Johnsbury, has resigned his pastorate and will sever his official relations with the church on May 1.

ARTILLERY DOING GOOD WORK.

Lieut. Neale W. Hooker Writes from France Under Date of Feb. 17.

Lieut. Neale W. Hooker wrote his parents, Mr. and Mrs. B. W. Hooker, under date of Feb. 17 that he expected soon to be assigned to an American regiment in France and he also refers to the Americans having taken over a slice of the trench line, as the newspapers already have reported.

Lieutenant Hooker writes: "Dear People at Home—Just a week since my last letter to you, but please do not expect as much this time, because I haven't got much to write about. I have seen lots and lots of interesting things, but most of them are taboo, as far as writing to you about them."

"For instance, the building in which I am living is quite historic and built many years ago by quite a famous man; but that is about all they will let me tell about it. Another thing is an old church, part of which was built by an old Roman emperor and later finished by France's greatest king. There are lots of famous pieces of statuary and antique relics which would be fine to write about, and I could fill pages telling you about the town, which, by the way, used to be quite famous."

"The past week has been quite uneventful and is getting to be about as routine as our work at Plattsburg. However, I am learning how very little I did know about the science of war as it is fought in these days. My training at Norwich and Plattsburg formed a good foundation upon which to work, but my studying there is passed in these times, when war is fought by specialists; and I am specializing in a branch which appeals to me as being very important and will put me in good shape to be assigned to a regiment in a few weeks."

"The other night I had quite a long talk with a fine young lieutenant of infantry, who has been up in the front trenches a few times for short periods each time. I sure would like to tell you some of the things he told me. 'No time to get scared,' he said, 'because you know you hear one big shell another one is screaming by, and if you can hear the noise it isn't going to hit you, for they hit the ground and scream afterward.' Quite nice, don't you think?"

"He told me of many queer and interesting sights that he saw or heard. One about an English soldier who wanted a pair of boots, so went over killed a Boche and took his shoes; a Scotchman heard of it, so he went over. The next morning they found him in the front line trench covered with wounds, and they asked him about it. He said that he had to kill 18 of the d—s Boches before he could find a pair of boots that would fit him. This lieutenant tells this as an actual fact, but I took it with a grain of salt, as you had better do."

"Of course, you have read in the papers about our troops taking over an important, though small, sector of the front line in Lorraine. Also our artillery is playing quite a part in conjunction with the French and British artillery in shelling the Boche trenches."

"This morning I went downtown to get a haircut and waited in line for two and a half hours before my turn. It takes the French about half an hour to cut a person's hair because they have to turn their hands so much to talk with."

"Remember in last week's letter how warm I told you it was—for the last three or four days it has been colder than Greenland; but the natives say it will be warmer 'toute de suite.'"

FAILED TO GET CO-OPERATION.

Retail Clerks' Organizer Says He Regrets Attitude of Some Merchants.

To the Public: Having been notified by the international office of retail clerks to come to Barre, to see if there could not be a settlement made so as to cause better feelings between the merchants of Barre and their clerks, also to bring a better co-operation between the unions of Barre and some of the merchants, I have exhausted all of my energy in trying to bring around the same as above stated.

Some of the non-union merchants have endeavored to block every effort that has been put out to bring this settlement. The union stores which have signed the clerks' agreement were willing to go in the Merchants' association, so as to have a general closing of the stores at one time.

It seems as if the union merchants were more patriotic for the general good of Barre. This agreement of the clerks was endorsed by the granite cutters' union and also by the Central Labor union of Barre. The clerks' organization was willing to waive all rights to settle this long-standing dispute.

I am sorry to see there are not more progressive merchants in the city of Barre, that realize what this settlement means to them as well as their clerks.

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